

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

May 26, 2015

On April 4, 2006, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the Los Angeles County Homeless Prevention Initiative (HPI). The HPI identified a total of \$80-million in one-time County General Funds, also referred to as Net County Cost, as well as \$15.6-million in ongoing Net County Cost (NCC) for various initiatives, including the County Homeless Court Program (HCP). Since its inception in March of 2008, the HCP has provided a mechanism for homeless individuals to have non-violent, non-victim misdemeanor citations and outstanding warrants dismissed upon the completion of a 90-day program. From March 2008 through March 2015 the HCP served over 2,500 homeless individuals under the lead of the Public Counsel Law Center (Public Counsel) in partnership with the Los Angeles County Superior Court, the County District Attorney (DA) and the Los Angeles City Attorney (City Attorney). The County has allocated approximately \$300,000 per year, from the HPI Countywide Subaccount, since Fiscal Year 2008-09 to support the Homeless Court Program.

To run an effective Homeless Court Program, the lead agency must have access to various databases where access is only granted by the U.S. Department of Justice.

MOTION

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To date, Public Counsel has worked with the Los Angeles City Attorney (City Attorney) to access the necessary databases, but with the contract with Public Counsel expiring, all stakeholders agree that the lead agency for the HCP contract will need to be a law enforcement agency.

The Chief Executive Office (CEO) Service Integration Branch (SIB) engaged in discussions with the District Attorney (DA) regarding their potential role as a lead agency, but it was determined that they do not deal with the type of infractions common to the HCP. The CEO SIB further engaged the City Attorney regarding their potential role and it was mutually agreed that the City Attorney would be recommended to be the lead agency for the HCP contract. All involved parties agreed that the City Attorney would be the most appropriate entity to serve as the lead for the following reasons:

- They already have access to the necessary databases, such as the Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System;
- They have experience operating a very successful alternative courts program; and,
- They have served as an in-kind partner of the HCP since its inception in 2008 and are very familiar with the expectations and goals of the HCP.

An additional benefit to the City Attorney serving as the lead is their ability to redesign the court clinic model similar to other models administered locally by the City Attorney and other jurisdictions across the nation. The functions of the redesigned model will be to: resolve certain traffic and non-violent, non-victim citations and related warrants and fines, all of which can detrimentally affect a person's ability to access employment, social services, and permanent housing. Further, the redesigned court

clinic model will include a shorter intake process and will aim to connect clients immediately to services/treatment and housing on-site at the Homeless Court Clinic as opposed to 90-days after enrollment, as was the case with the original County model. Clients will still be required to complete identified services/programs specific to their needs in order to have the citations, fines, and warrants removed from their record.

This Board action will enable the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office to begin operating the County Homeless Court Program, for a three-year contract period, with an overall three-year budget of \$810,400.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Direct the Interim Chief Executive Officer to enter into a sole source Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office to serve as the lead agency for the continued operations of the County Homeless Court Clinic for a period of three years, commencing on the date of execution of the MOU.
- b) Direct the Interim Chief Executive Officer to allocate ongoing funding of \$266,800 per fiscal year, for three years, from the Homeless Prevention Initiative, Countywide Subaccount to support the operational costs for the Homeless Court Program.
- c) Direct the Interim Chief Executive Officer to allocate one-time unspent program funds of \$10,000 from the Homeless Prevention Initiative, Countywide Subaccount to support the Fiscal Year 2015-16 start-up and operational costs for the Homeless Court Program.

- d) Authorize the Interim Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Funding Agreement to transfer \$810,400, over a three-year period as described above, for start-up, operational and related expenses for the County Homeless Court Program.
- e) Delegate authority to the Interim Chief Executive Officer to execute amendments, as needed, to effectively administer the Homeless Court Clinic and to increase or decrease the maximum funding amount of the MOU by up to 10%, contingent on the availability of funding.

S:MR/Homeless Court Program